



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE

KC FELON SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., felon was sentenced in federal court today for illegally possessing a firearm. Today's sentencing, Graves said, marks additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

Davell L. Smalls, 30, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to eight years in federal prison without parole.

On Jan. 28, 2003, **Smalls** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Smalls** admitted that he was in possession of a Ruger 9 mm semi-automatic pistol on Oct. 21, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Smalls** has a 2001 criminal felony conviction for selling an imitation of a controlled substance; three 1996 criminal felony convictions for interference with government property, theft and arson; one 1995 criminal felony conviction for escape; and one 1992 criminal felony conviction for possession with intent to distribute.

Smalls was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in a criminal complaint filed on Oct. 22, 2002, in Kansas City. The criminal complaint was later replaced by an indictment, returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 5, 2002, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal

prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow